

September 10, 2010

The Glastonbury Town Council
2155 Main Street
Glastonbury, CT 06033

Re: Town Manager's Report

Dear Council Members:

The following will keep you up-to-date on various topics.

1. Financial Reporting:

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) has recognized Glastonbury with the *Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting* for the June 30, 2009 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. This is the 20th consecutive year the Town has received this award. Congratulations to all involved.

2. Education Jobs Act:

Connecticut is scheduled to receive approximately \$110 million from the federal Education Jobs Fund Program. Glastonbury is forecast to receive approximately \$362,586. Funds are to be allocated to salaries and benefits of teachers, school administrators and other essential staff. Funds cannot be used to supplant existing budgets.

3. Energy Efficiency:

I am pleased to advise that the U.S. EPA has awarded Glastonbury Town Hall the EPA Energy Star designation for 2010. This reconfirms energy efficiency activities and results at Town Hall.

4. Blackledge Falls:

I have attached a copy of the recently printed brochure describing the history of the Blackledge Falls parcel and the various trail loops within this 80 acre town owned parcel. A sign showing the trail system will also be erected at the site. This should be in place this fall.

5. Special Exception:

The Building-Zone Regulations currently empower the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) to consider and take action on applications for a Special Exception. This is similar to the Special Permit process. I have discussed with Council Leadership and the thought is to amend the Regulations to have the Special Exception process heard by the Town Plan & Zoning Commission (TPZ). The TPZ considers and acts on Special Permit applications and is more accustomed to the Special Permit-Special Exception process. A referral to TPZ is suggested. This would involve a proposal to amend the Building-Zone Regulations.

6. Artificial Turf:

In response to health concerns for the crumb rubber used in artificial turf field construction, a cooperative study was conducted by a variety of state agencies. The Glastonbury field was included as a test site to supplement the testing conducted by the Town before installation. The study concludes health risks are not elevated from playing on outdoor artificial turf fields.

7. Library – Overdue Notices:

Effective January 2011, almost due and overdue notices will be sent electronically and no longer distributed through the mail. This reduces paper, envelopes and related costs. Annual savings are estimated at \$2,000.

8. Sanitary Sewers:

A question was asked concerning sanitary sewer recommendations by the WPCA as compared to on-site septic systems recommended by the Conservation Commission. The current Master Sewer Plan recommends sanitary sewers in some areas of town not served by public water. The Plan of Conservation & Development generally encourages sustainable development. Namely, septic systems on sites served by wells. The idea being to put water back to the aquifer rather than being piped to the Treatment Plant and discharged to the Connecticut River. A potential approach could involve updating the Master Sewer Plan to help address the sometimes conflicting approaches.

9. Project Updates:

A brief status of pending projects is as follows.

Western Boulevard: Construction in progress.

House Street Sidewalks: Construction underway.

Magnet School: Soil removal and demolition bid process complete. Work to begin this month and continue through calendar year end. Building design and approvals underway.

Bikepath: Bid process scheduled for early fall.

Slocumb Building: Hazardous materials analysis complete. Bid for this work to be followed by demolition bid process. To be coordinated with historic analysis.

Earle Park Bridge: Construction underway.

Riverfront Park: Design and permitting ongoing to include potential second floor on boathouse.

Hebron Avenue School Roof and Paving: Generally complete.

10. Town Center:

The “open house” program is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 29th at the Riverfront Community Center. This provides the opportunity for informal review and discussion on the concept plans developed following the initial community workshop. The second community workshop is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 3rd, also at the Community Center.

I will be happy to review the preceding and any other items Tuesday evening.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Johnson
Town Manager

RJJ:yo